

I am also extremely pleased that several amendments I offered were passed by the Senate.

My Chemical Weapons Convention amendment sends an extremely strong message to the Department of Defense that the Senate will no longer stand for schedule or funding delays regarding the destruction of chemical weapons. Pueblo Chemical Depot needs to be rid of its chemical weapons stockpiles. The Department of Defense needs to commit the resources to ensure it happens as quickly as possible. With my amendment, the entire Senate spoke with one voice in agreement.

Another amendment I offered and had included in the Senate bill will change the name of the death gratuity to fallen hero compensation. I have stated this before, but I believe the term "death gratuity" to be a poor description of the compensation this Nation provides to the families of fallen servicemembers. To my way of thinking, anyone who has worn the uniform of the Armed Forces is an American hero, and this small name change will be extremely meaningful to the bereaved families of those servicemembers who die while on active duty.

I am also pleased that Chairman WARNER and Senator LEVIN have worked with me to accept an amendment that requires the Secretary of the Army to complete a study on the High Altitude Aviation Training Site, HAATS, in Eagle County, CO. HAATS is operated by the Colorado National Guard, and I could not be prouder of the school and its mission. Helicopter pilots trained at HAATS are safer in mountainous and environmentally challenging terrain. This study I have proposed will strengthen the school and will help raise its level of visibility in the Army.

I also cosponsored a number of important amendments that have been included in the Senate's bill. One amendment will ensure the Pentagon provides the citizens of southeastern Colorado with the information they have been asking for regarding the Pinon Canyon Maneuvering Site. Another helps provide contractors at Pueblo Chemical Depot with incentives to finish by the deadline. On a national level, I was proud to cosponsor a fiscally responsible amendment authored by Senator MCCAIN that requires future money for ongoing military operations to be properly budgeted and paid for, instead of continuing to use emergency funding in a way that avoids oversight. And I was pleased to cosponsor a successful amendment to strengthen the mandate of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction.

During consideration of this bill, the Senate engaged in many hours of debate regarding the course of U.S. policy in Iraq. I was proud to be a cosponsor of the Levin-Reed amendment that built upon last year's Senate consensus that 2006 should be a year of transition in Iraq. While this amendment was not

successful, I believe that the debate was important, and that Congress must continue to search for constructive and responsible ways to help ensure success in Iraq by insisting on more direction and clarity in U.S. policy. Our brave men and women in uniform are doing such a remarkable job in Iraq. We need to work hard here in Washington to ensure that our policy is worthy of their efforts.

Our troops need every opportunity for success. This funding bill, and the amendments and projects it contains, send a powerful message to our troops and the enemies they bravely face: this country supports our men and women in uniform. Our brave service men and women are the best in the world, and this bill will ensure they have the training, supplies, and materials they need to continue to produce such positive results.

U.S. POLICY IN IRAQ

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, the policy in Iraq is not working and must change. The current plan does not have incentives that encourage the Iraqis to take full responsibility for their own security or to make the difficult compromises necessary for a unity government to work.

We have been in Iraq fighting this war for more than 3 years. The United States has sent hundreds of thousands of our finest troops to liberate Iraq from a brutal dictator. More than 2,500 have died for Iraq's freedom and close to 20,000 have been wounded, many very seriously. America has also spent more than \$300 billion fighting the war in Iraq.

Those sacrifices continue. We have about 130,000 troops in Iraq today and, regrettably, we will have more deaths and injuries before this war is over. We will also continue to spend tens, if not hundreds, of billions of dollars more in fighting this war.

I believe that we need a change and we need a change now. That change is the Levin-Reed amendment currently before us.

This amendment says that we will begin a phased redeployment of our troops by the end of 2006.

This will force the Iraqis to take responsibility for their own security and to do so soon. They will have to replace our redeployed troops with Iraqi troops. This will create incentives to build their own police and military because some time soon they will not be able to count on Americans doing those jobs. This will also encourage them to put aside their political differences and agree on a government that works.

This action will not come as a surprise to the Iraqis or anyone else. Last year, by a vote of 79 to 19, the United States Senate said 2006 "should be a period of significant transition to full Iraqi sovereignty, with Iraqi security forces taking the lead for the security of a free and sovereign Iraq, thereby creating the conditions for the phased

redeployment of United States forces from Iraq." What we are now saying is it's time for the phased redeployment to happen.

The Levin-Reed amendment that I voted for says that "the current open ended commitment of United States forces in Iraq is unsustainable and is a deterrent to the Iraqis making the political compromises and personnel and resource commitments that are needed for the stability and security of Iraq."

Reducing the U.S. role in Iraq also reduces the arguments made by the insurgents and terrorists that they are fighting an occupying army. When Iraqis are in charge of security, they will be forced to decide if they are going to continue to fight their own government and their own military or work together to rebuild their own country.

We are not pulling out or abandoning the Iraqi people. We are moving to a support role while the Iraqis take the lead. That is what phased redeployment means.

It is time for the Iraqis to work together and build their future. We cannot do that for them. This amendment sets in place a plan to provide the conditions for them to do it themselves. We have done our part. They must do their part and they must do it soon.

THIRTY-FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF TITLE IX

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, today marks the 34th anniversary of title IX. Since 1972, title IX has opened doors to athletics, education and success for millions of young women across our Nation. For 34 years, the program has increased participation under Republican and Democratic administrations, because title IX is not about politics it is about helping young women realize their dreams.

The statistics are amazing—millions of young women breaking down barriers. But behind these numbers, the lives of these women have been improved because of the changes brought about through title IX.

I have seen how title IX has changed the experience of women in my own family. When I went to school 30 years ago, the atmosphere was much different. Back then at Washington State University, I could only participate in a few sports, and women receiving athletic scholarships was unheard of.

The difference between my daughter's generation and my own could not be more stark. Women of my generation never had the chance to go to college on a sports scholarship, even though many deserved them. Some of my daughter's friends have done just that.

I am so proud of my home State of Washington, which is the first State in the Nation to boast two women Senators and a woman Governor. It is also home to WNBA champions the Seattle Storm.

There is no doubt that title IX has opened doors for women over the past